



Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report

Saskatchewan Social Services

1983-84





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Foreword

Annual Report 1983-84

This Annual Report summarizes the purpose and performance of the Department of Social Services during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1984.

A departmental Annual Report is required under *The Department of Social Services Act*, which states:

"The minister shall, in accordance with *The Tabling of Documents Act*, submit to the Lieutenant Governor in Council an annual report respecting the work performed by the department".

The Report is divided into four basic sections:

- introduction and organizational information;
- services and programs;
- internal support services; and,
- fiscal addendum.

Additional copies of this report are available from:

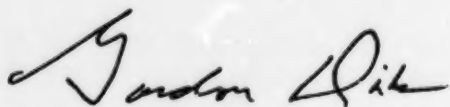
The Social Services
Resource Centre,
Saskatchewan Social Services,
1920 Broad Street,
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V6

Minister's Transmittal

Honourable Frederick W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Saskatchewan

May it please your honour:

I hereby respectfully submit the Annual
Report of the Department of Social
Services for the fiscal year ended March
31, 1984.



Gordon E. Dirks
Minister of Social Services



Office of the Minister
of Social Services,
Legislative Building,
Regina, Saskatchewan

Deputy Minister's Transmittal

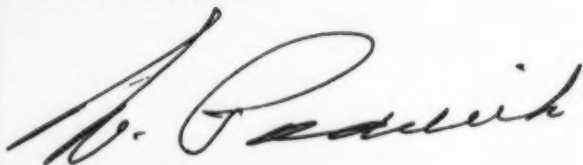
**Honourable Gordon Dirks
Minister of Social Services
Regina**

Sir:

I have the honour to present to you herewith the Annual Report for the Department of Social Services respecting the fiscal year ended March 31, 1984.

When I look back over the year, I consider my personal involvement in the department to have been a very special privilege. I learned to appreciate the calibre of the people associated with the various programs and the general administration of the department. I believe that their sense of mission and dedication are unsurpassed.

The opportunity to work in the department provided me with certain insights and understandings with respect to human conditions, that I did not have before.



**Walter Podiluk
Deputy Minister
of Social Services**

*Mr. Podiluk was
appointed Deputy
Minister of Health
during July of 1984.*



Contents

Mandate	1
Adapting to Change	1
Coordination	3
Organization Chart	4
Regional Department Services	6
Service Delivery Structure	7
Non-governmental Services	10
Rehabilitation Services	12
Child and Family Services	14
Child Protection Services	14
Foster Home Program	15
Single Parent Services	15
Adoption Program	16
Youth Services	17
Day Care	17
Senior Citizens	18
Income Security	19
The Saskatchewan Assistance Plan	19
Job Creation	20
Employment Support	21
Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons	21
The Family Income Plan	22
Saskatchewan Income Plan	22
Internal Support Services	22
Fiscal Addendum	24

The mission of the Department of Social Services is to promote human growth and development, and thereby the well-being of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mandate

Given the priorities of the Government of Saskatchewan and the special needs of the people of the province, the department responds to its mission through:

- providing financial assistance and related support services to persons who are unable to provide for themselves;
- providing for re-entry into the work place for persons who are able to be independent of assistance;
- protecting children against abuse and abandonment;
- providing substitute care for children, youth and families;
- providing rehabilitative and developmental services and promoting independent living for persons who are physically or mentally disabled;
- supporting community-based services.

Performance

The department measures its productive success through gauging its ability to help people either transcend the burden of dependency and achieve self-reliance or, at least, to realize the degree of independence of which they are capable.

Mandate Clarified

The mandate of the department was clarified during the year. Previously administered Continuing Care and Corrections programs were transferred at the beginning of the year to the Departments of Health and Justice respectively.

Since the compassion of society first created them, social services have continually changed. They have been introduced and adjusted in focus as social values and expectations have evolved. Most important, they have been adapted as time has passed to the changing needs of the people served.

Society remains compassionate but the twentieth century has been characterized by unprecedented social and economic change and innovation, and no less demand for help. Responding to rapid change more recently has been complicated by demand for income support and other social services, this during a period when all governments are facing difficult economic decisions. Perhaps more than ever, the providers of social services have had to respond to the desire for adequate and relevant services with stringent practicality in mind.

Challenged by these conditions, the Saskatchewan Department of Social Services introduced a number of initiatives during the year under review. The prevailing level of service to the people of Saskatchewan was maintained while the ability of the department to help people improved.

Initiatives were announced during the year to provide productive alternatives to financial assistance which had always been provided in dollars and cents. Job and skills development opportunities were created. The welfare program became more equitable through the provision of benefits tied more to the degree of client needs and less to prescribed, uniform levels.

Unparalleled public concern about family violence in society increased the desire within the department to initiate changes in family services administration. A Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection was established to review *The Family Services Act* and, thereby, recommend programmatic improvements. The introduction of

the long-awaited federal *Young Offenders Act* brought with it new dimensions to be considered within the youth services orientation of the department.

A new Parent Aide Program was established and in-home support services were being provided by year-end, reducing the risk to children while allowing families to remain intact.

The department was instrumental in establishing an inter-departmental task force on family violence to conduct a broader review of needs and resources.

An interdepartmental committee was established to review programs for the disabled.

Adapting to Change

A review of the Saskatchewan day care system was initiated during the year. Legislative Assistant to the Minister of Social Services, Jo-Ann Zazelenchuk (M.L.A. Saskatoon-Riversdale) distributed 1,400 copies of a discussion paper to encourage public input and involvement in the review. Public meetings were held and over 150 written submissions were received for consideration.

The crucial partnership in the provision of local social services between the department and dozens of community service organizations was examined. There was a mutual awareness of the fiscal and programmatic complexities that influenced funding approvals. Examination of this important service relationship was characterized by open dialogue, greatly enhancing co-operation and understanding.

Improved communication served as the basis for a renewed relationship between the government and senior citizens of the province, during the year. The Minister of Social Services was appointed as responsible to Cabinet for the affairs of seniors. Advisory and informational initiatives were introduced.

Productivity Improvement

In addition to adjustments in the stewardship of the department, its performance was also considered. Productivity improvement was a major objective of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The productive efficiency of organizations had historically been no less important than during the year under review. However, within the social services administration, a new performance dimension had emerged as crucial. Social programming was being judged more on the basis of its ability to prevent dependence rather than its residual influence or effect.

Innovation, relevance and practicality became the operational themes by which program performance was measured.

A number of administrative initiatives were introduced during the year:

- A team approach to problem solving and strategic planning was adopted.
- A Provincial Management Council was established.
- Tighter fiscal controls were applied and expenditures in program areas were brought in on target.
- A review of training programs and procedures began with a focus on professional effectiveness and preventive initiative.
- Administration of the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan was reviewed and plans for improved accountability and automation approved.
- Improvement was realized in community relations activities through more effective communication, reducing duplication of intent throughout the governmental/non-governmental service system.
- Administration of rehabilitation services at the Valley View Centre and North Park Centre institutions for the mentally disabled was re-organized and programs were improved.
- Staff reporting relationships were consolidated throughout the department, skills and roles were clarified, and the ability of managers to make decisions strengthened.

Productivity improvement will continue. The department will seek to balance its mandate with available resources, identify training and advancement opportunities, and improve communication systems.

The department's performance strategy includes the development of a stronger team approach to productivity improvement, more frequent internal consultation and the continuing identification of preventive alternatives to residual activities.

Structural Adjustments

Adjustments in the organizational structure of the department were effected during the year. These changes were significant.

The highlights of departmental re-organization were:

- establishment of an Income Security Division which administers financial assistance programs and job creation activities of the department;
- the formation of a Rehabilitation Services Division, combining services for persons who are mentally and physically disabled;
- introduction of a Seniors' Bureau to improve the ability of all senior citizens to be informed about and advise the government; and,
- the requirement that the organization of the department's district office operations match the new central structure.

Saskatchewan

Coordination

The Department of Social Services administers eight major service areas. These areas can be described as:

Rehabilitation Services for persons who are mentally or physically disabled through provision of institutional services and by support of community based residential and other services.

Child and Family Services, include the department's foster care, adoption and child protection programs.

Youth Services, involves serving youth generally and effecting provincial responsibilities respecting young offenders, including institutional and regional services, and the referral of youth to community-based programs and residential services.

NGO (Non-governmental Organization) Services, involves the support of provincial or community-based social service programs throughout the province.

Employment Support and Job Creation, involve vocational rehabilitation and the creation of job opportunities, primarily for social assistance clients.

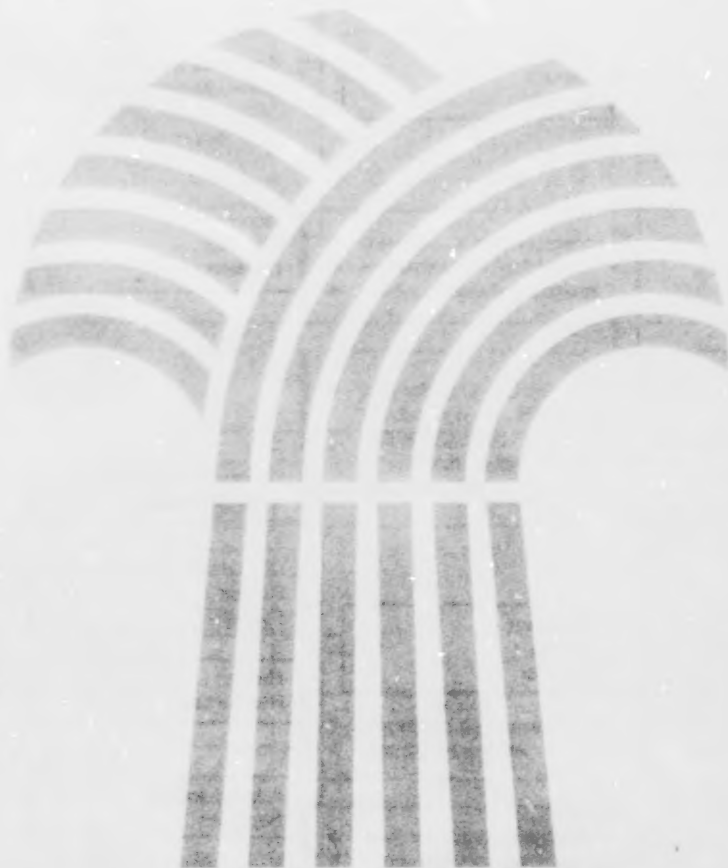
Income Security programs, include welfare and income supplements for low-income families and senior citizens.

Day Care program, includes licensing and some start-up support for day care operations throughout the province, and subsidization of low-income earner access.

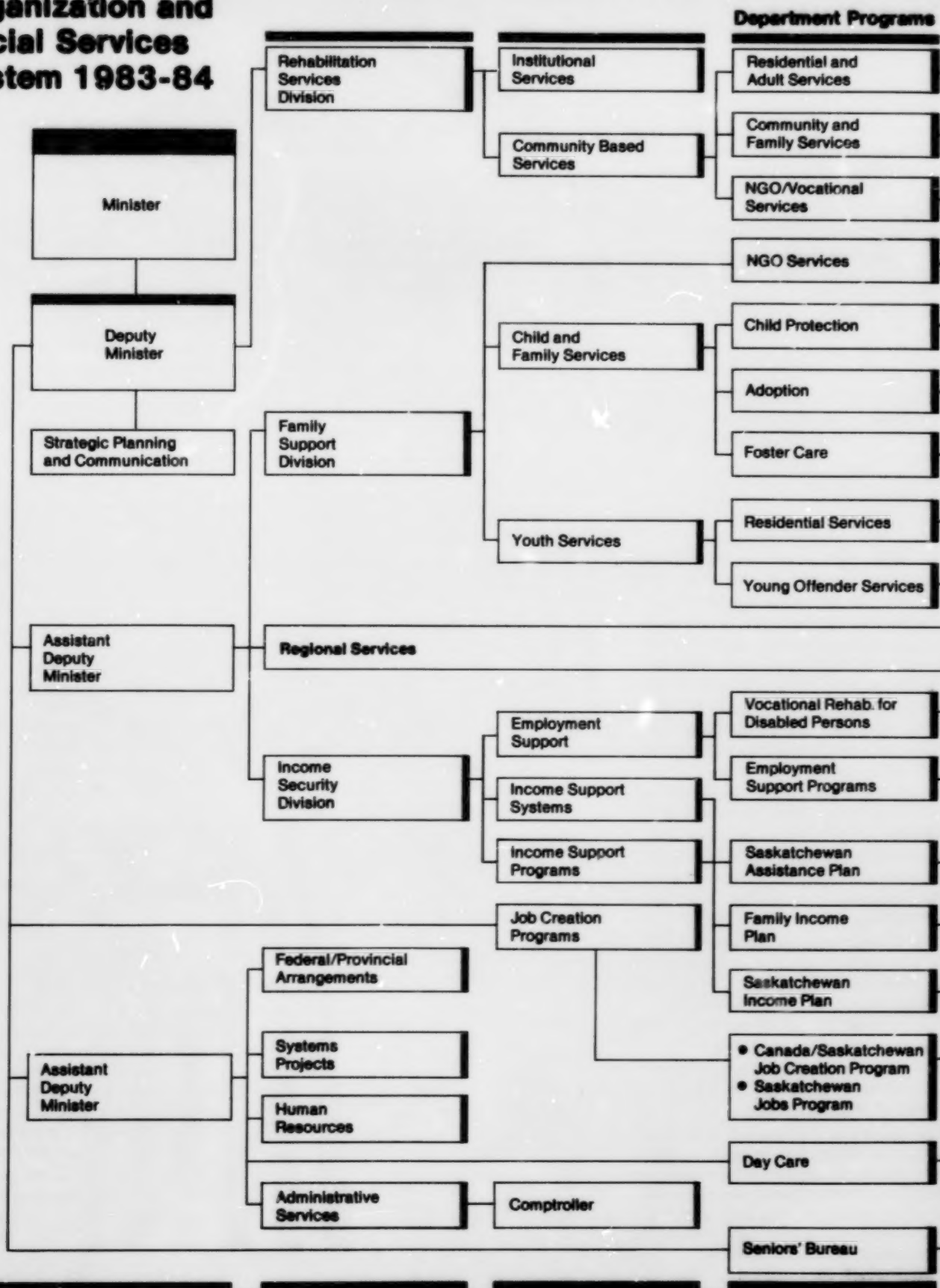
Seniors' Bureau, includes communication services, program coordination and support for seniors' organizations.

The quality and efficiency of social services depend upon team-work and consultation. Many personal and family social problems are complex and a number of programs and services may be affected, depending upon each set of personal circumstances.

All of the major program areas of the department provide direct or regional services, or support community based programs, for the public. Providers of social services must also commonly interact with other health, education, housing and transportation programs and services.



Organization and Social Services System 1983-84



Central Department Services

- funding

- funding

- promotion

- post adoption services
- registration

- association liaison

- institutional services

- remand

- applications
- allowances

- funding

- welfare

- benefits for low-income families

- supplements for low-income seniors

- funding of job creation projects

- licensing
- start-up funding

- governmental co-ordination
- Seniors Enquiry Line

Regional Department Services

- service coordination and consultation
- social work and support services
- therapist services

- consultation

- teen parent counselling
- child neglect investigation
- special needs child adoption
- infant adoption
- step parent/private adoption
- foster parent recruitment
- special foster parent arrangements-transitional
- parent support when children at risk

- community placement

- remand
- probation

Regional Services:

- through 16 district offices and 8 sub-offices of districts
- these 24 service areas form the three regions

- consultation

- applications
- eligibility assessment
- benefits assignment
- counselling
- control and audit
- work preparation

- referral to vocational rehabilitation
- referral to training

- referral to employment

- consultation
- low-income subsidies

Community Services (NGO's)

- preventive research
- group homes operation
- early childhood intervention
- sheltered workshops
- activity centres
- emergency care-respite services
- supportive living
- local/provincial associations

- trusteeship, counselling and referral services
- Big Sisters/Brothers
- foster parents
- crisis services/shelters
- sexual assault centres
- family support centres
- native family worker projects
- teen parent projects
- group homes construction
- local/provincial associations and coordinating agencies

- juvenile diversion projects
- family counselling services
- youth centres
- group homes operation
- youth counselling services

- transitional employment projects
- subsidized industries
- work preparation centres

- Municipality Unit Offices (NGO's) in Moose Jaw and Prince Albert deliver Saskatchewan Assistance Plan services within these two communities

- approved day care homes
- day care centres

- seniors activity centres
- transportation projects

Coordination

The scope and span of programs administered by the department make coordination crucial. The relevance and reliability of programs depend upon teamwork and consultation, reaching from the department's central operations through its regional service delivery structure to community interests and all human service organizations.

It would be difficult to identify any single aspect of the government that does not, from time to time, become involved with the social services delivery system. It is through inter-departmental consultation that the system can remain functionally relevant to the needs of the public.

The department participated during the year on an inter-departmental committee established to study family violence. This serves as a good example of an issue which involved many programs, including health and justice, in its potential resolution. The problem and consequences of family violence could not be dealt with in any comprehensive way by the Department of Social Services in isolation.

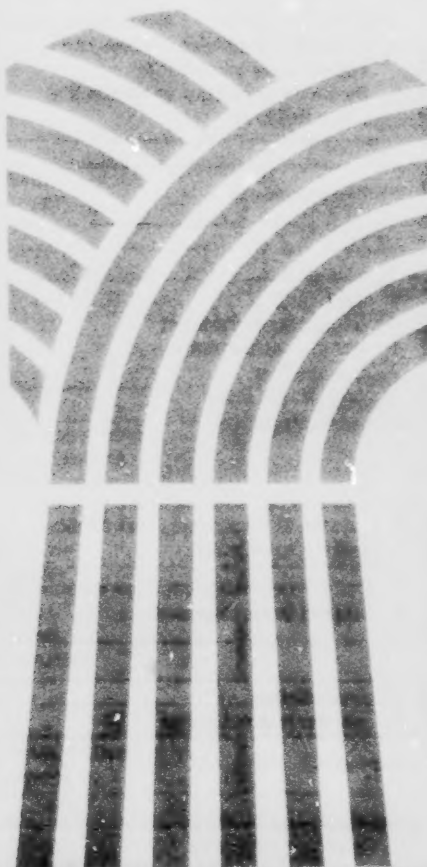
Improved communication between the department and non-governmental providers of social services was a priority. Continuing dialogue formed an important part of this partnership.

Communication is also important in the department's relationship with other jurisdictions. The exchange of ideas among provinces and countries serves the interests of all organizations.

The work of the department would also be impossible to carry out without the combination of team-effort and individual dedication evident within and among its programs. Committees and project-teams served to deal with a number of administrative and programmatic problems during the year under review. For example, teams developed plans to both automate and reform the Saskatchewan welfare system. A new Provincial Management Council also proved

successful as a mechanism to improve internal communication. Staff meetings and in-service training throughout the department were routine.

Nowhere within the entire social services delivery structure is coordination more important than between the central and regional operations of the department.



Regional Department Services

One of the major benefits of the realignment of the department was the improved ability to provide necessary services at the regional level, where they could be accessed more easily by the persons who needed them.

In the process of departmental re-organization, the eight previous social services regions were discontinued and the province divided into sixteen districts with eight sub-office operations within half of the districts. Together, these 24 service delivery units were grouped within three major regions.

Regional services operations were required to "match" central program entities, improving coordination and efficiency. The introduction of three major regions also narrowed the span of control relationship between the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for regional services and the district operations.

This structural adjustment improved the ability of central managers to function more as facilitators and consultants concentrating on the overall standards, relevance and efficiency of the programs and services provided by the department throughout the province.

The "matching" of regional with central program functions also enhanced the department's ability to provide "one-stop" service at the local level. This requirement, for example, had the result of placing day care consultant services in La Ronge. The new structure also served to further decentralize services.

The department's programs became more responsive to local client needs, through the improved communication which evolved from the more direct program/service inter-faces. More decisions could be made at the regional level, making services more flexible and relevant. Budget allocations could more accurately reflect areas of local need, and funds used more

**Northern
Region**



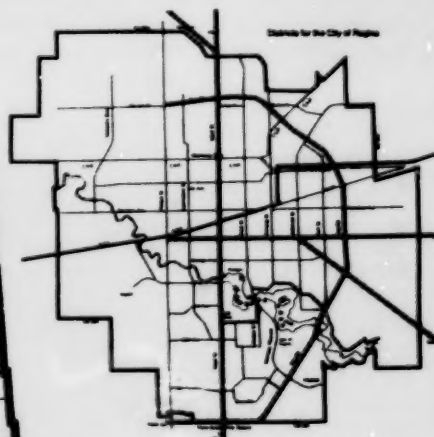
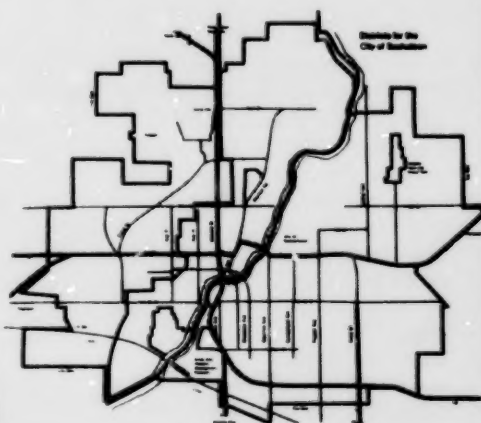
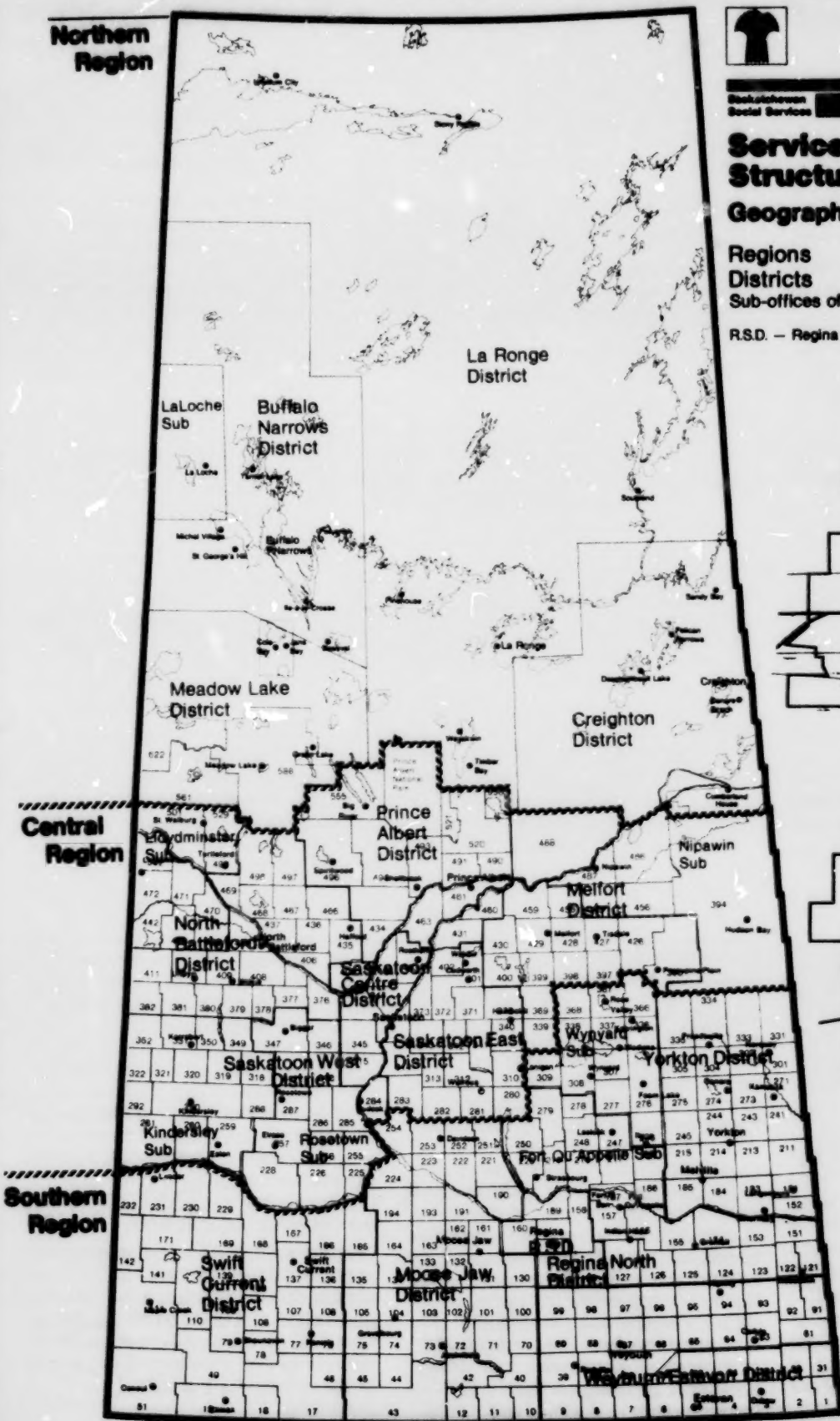
Saskatchewan
Social Services

Service Delivery Structure

Geographic Distribution 1984

Regions
Districts
Sub-offices of Districts

R.S.D. — Regina South District



Regional Department Services

effectively. Regional managers also became more involved in program and budget development.

Rehabilitation Services

Services are available to those persons who have physical or mental disabilities. These services are intended to help children and their parents, and adults, adjust to a handicap; minimize the effects of the handicapping conditions as much as possible; and assist in making appropriate decisions about the handicapped person's educational, residential and lifestyle needs.

Twenty-four social workers, four community therapists and four supervisors provided services in the province, supporting the functions of non-governmental agencies providing service to disabled persons, and directly assisting with individual program design and implementation.

Child Protection Services

All reports of child neglect and abuse are investigated by child protection caseworkers at the regional level. If it is apparent that a child is in need of protection, the decision is made to provide counselling, referral services, and in-home support services to the family to reduce risk to the child.

The department will provide for the purchase of certain local services that reduce risk to the child, protect the child from harm within the context of the family, and prevent the child from coming into care. These services include homemaking, parent aide, parent education or assessment, counselling or therapy, and transportation. By the end of the year, parent aide services were either available or ready to be implemented in all areas of Saskatchewan.

In all cases, the safety of a child is the paramount consideration. The child will be removed from the home and placed in the care of the Minister of Social Services, if it is likely that the child cannot be protected in the context of the home.

Fostering Services

Children who are temporarily or permanently in the care of the Minister of Social Services are provided with a substitute family environment. Foster homes provide care for children who can function in a family environment. The department retains financial responsibility and legal guardianship, and foster parents provide day-to-day care. For children with special needs, such as children with physical or mental handicaps, teenagers, family groups, delinquent youths, difficult youths and emotionally disturbed children, the department also provides assessment services, and short and long-term care through other residential resources.

Child care workers provide counselling, referral and other services to both children and foster parents as needed.

Adoption Services

Mothers seeking to place children for adoption can ask for and receive assistance at district offices. A local worker will assist the mother (the father may be involved) in completing the necessary documents.

Parents seeking to adopt can also apply at a district office. All applicants are assessed for placement of a child by an adoption home study, involving a series of interviews and meetings designed to prepare them for the role of parenting.

Regional Department Services

Single Parent Services

Single parents or parents-to-be are referred to the department's district offices by a variety of means, including self-referrals, family, hospitals, schools and doctors. District offices provide information, referral to other agencies, counselling and other pre- and post-natal support services.

Support services can include orientation to parenting. This consists of weekly visits to teach specific parenting skills and infant stimulation techniques. Intensive counselling on education, employment and family relationships is also provided.

Youth Services

Services to youth and young offenders are provided through a range of programs.

In Regina and Saskatoon, the department provides detention services for juveniles awaiting court hearings. Workers conduct investigations to help the courts make decisions. Young offenders may be remanded in provincial child care centres while formal psychiatric or psychological assessments are made, should they be required.

The department also provides probation services and supervises alternative dispositions that involve restitution to the community. Regional workers help youths and families prepare for young person's return home. In most cases, the worker's responsibility continues beyond the discharge of a youth from special placement.

Day Care Services

Financial assistance is available to low-income parents of children in day-care. Consultation is provided to family day-care providers and day-care centre operators.

Seniors' Services

Seniors can access direct and indirect support services at the regional level. Information about government programs and services is co-ordinated by the new Seniors' Bureau, and provided to all regional offices.

Income Support Services

People who, for various reasons such as chronic disability, ill health or inability to secure employment, do not have enough money to meet basic needs, can apply for financial assistance to meet the cost of food, shelter, utilities, clothing and other necessities under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan and the Family Income Plan.

In some cases, individuals may qualify for supplementary health services provided by Saskatchewan Health. Other counselling and referral services are also provided to lessen or remove the causes of dependency.

Regional staff have the direct responsibility for determining eligibility and administering health and financial benefits for welfare clients. Exceptions are the cities of Moose Jaw and Prince Albert, where these services are delivered by municipal social services units operated by the communities themselves.

Employment Services

Regional staff can enhance income support services with employment support services. People who are dependent on the department but able to work can be offered specialized vocational, general training and job opportunities to help them gain or regain independence.

Emergency Social Services

The district offices may be called upon to respond to emergencies in the event of a large scale disaster affecting large numbers of people.

Provisions might include food, clothing, lodging and other personal social services. The department works closely with emergency measures organizations to this end.

Accomplishments

Regional staff across the province participated in numerous training and information-sharing activities such as school career days, sexual abuse workshops, a suicide symposium, protection awareness seminars, crisis-line service, foster parent training, presentations on family violence, and the new federal *Young Offenders Act* and *The Family Services Act*.

During the 1983-84 year, there was considerable improvement in the co-ordination of services in sexual abuse cases, and a growing awareness of the problem of sexual abuse.

A group of foster parents was recruited and trained to provide intensive support and parental care to severely disturbed youth in the Melfort area of the province.

There was also a renewed focus on the recruitment of foster parents and improvement in the quality, accessibility and provision of services to foster parents.

A close relationship has developed between the central district office in Saskatoon and various alcohol rehabilitation and psychiatric service organizations.

Numerous meetings with Indian Band Councils and local Metis societies across the province were held with a view to developing more meaningful services for native people.

Staff also worked closely with community groups across the province, providing financial consultation and improving the co-ordination of services.

The North Battleford and Prince Albert district offices participated in a joint workshop on preventive services.

Non-governmental Services

Within its mandate to provide a broad range of social services to the people of Saskatchewan, the department works closely with many non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and other service providers.

In all cases, funding decisions are made within the context of the department's program objectives and budget appropriations. Funding may take the form of a grant, fee-for-service, or a subsidy for operations. The department monitors funded agencies to ensure that the terms and conditions of funding are met. It also provides consultation on finances and service delivery for those agencies receiving funds.

The department provided funds during the year to a variety of non-governmental community-based social services organizations which are responsible for providing services to children, youth and their families. These included:

Crisis Intervention Services

- after-hours services provided by the Mobile Crisis Services, Regina, the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service, and the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.
- sexual assault services by the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Battleford's and Area Rape Crisis Centre, and the Regina Women's Community Centre and Sexual Assault Line.
- transition houses, including the Regina Transition Women's Society, the Regina Native Women's Association Residential Resource Centre, the Saskatoon Interval House, the Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association, the Association of West Central Native Women in Prince Albert, and the Battlefords Interval House.

Trusteeship Services

- trusteeship services including the Welfare Rights Centre in Regina, the Saskatoon Self-Help Council, the Prince Albert and District Community Service Centre (Consumer and Family Finance Program), and the Moose Jaw Community Action Society.

Counselling and Family Supports

- native family service organizations, including the Metis Society of Saskatoon, the Regina Native Women's Association (Community Centre), the Lestock Women's Centre, and the Native Coordinating Council (Family Services) in Prince Albert.
- native friendship centres in Yorkton, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Uranium City, the Battlefords, Saskatoon, Regina and La Ronge.
- the Family Service Bureaux in Saskatoon and Regina, the Catholic Family Service Society in Regina and Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon, the Minto Family Life Education Centre in Moose Jaw, and the North-East Family Life Centre in Tisdale.
- other counselling services including the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project and the SCEP Centre Society of Regina, the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children, the Humboldt District No. 44 Home Care Program (Family Counselling Program), the Maple Creek Community Centre Society, the Regina Contemporary Women's Program, and the Parkland Education Employment Coordinating Committee (Community Living Skills Program) in Yorkton.

Information and Referral Services

- information and referral services provided by the Community Switchboard of Regina and the Community Aid/Resource Centre in Saskatoon.

Preventive Services

- preventive services including those provided by the Big Sisters and Big Brothers associations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and North Battleford.
- mediation/diversion services for youth provided by the John Howard Society organizations in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw.
- boys and girls clubs including Youth Unlimited of Regina and clubs in Saskatoon and North Battleford (to be transferred to Culture and Youth in 1984-85).

Local and Provincial Coordination

- local coordination organizations including the Society of the Involvement of Good Neighbours in Yorkton and the SMILE Services group in Estevan.
- provincial coordinating organizations including the Saskatchewan Association of Non-government Social Services Agencies and the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association.
- provincial associations including Services to the Hearing Impaired Persons (telewriter service), The Salvation Army and the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council.



Non-governmental Services

Group Homes

Funding was also provided for construction, renovation and start-up of group homes for youth and the disabled.

Other Services

The department funds and works closely with non-governmental agencies which provide services and programs for the benefit of the handicapped. These services are described in the Rehabilitation Services section of this report.

The department also supports certain employment programs, day care start-up, and seniors' activity centres and specialized transportation projects. These services are raised later in this report, associated with related program areas.

Accomplishments

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the value of the NGO community in delivering social services across the province. Equally important, there has been a mutual awareness of some of the fiscal and programmatic complexities that influence the granting of funds to NGO's by the department.

Both the department and the NGO community recognized that the delivery of social services is a partnership, with each partner contributing not only with social services and programming, but also financially. Communities will continue to be encouraged to contribute to the financing of various social services programs offered within the community.

In 1983-84, important strides were made in achieving greater levels of understanding and co-operation, and:

- More open dialogue and communication were assured.
- The department took an active role in initiating and funding

programs carried on by the NGO community. For instance, the teen parent program was set up in five family service agencies within the province.

- The department examined the criteria for NGO community funding, presented service priorities along with budgetary guidelines to the NGO's and enabled the NGO community to better understand the department's capacity to provide funding. This open approach helped to lessen misunderstandings and enhance co-operation.
- The department renegotiated its relationship with the Saskatchewan Association of Non-governmental Social Services Agencies to facilitate a renewed and revitalized membership campaign.

Saskatchewan

Rehabilitation Services

Community Rehabilitation Services

The Early Childhood Intervention Program (E.C.I.P.) is a home-based program that provides training and support to parents of children from birth to five years who have developmental disabilities. This program, supplemented by regular home visits by trained staff, helps families and prevents children from coming into institutional care.

The E.C.I.P. program is supported primarily by the department but supplemented with some local funding. It is administered by non-profit community boards and is mainly parent-controlled.

During the year, the Department of Social Services and the E.C.I.P. Provincial Council contracted with the Saskatchewan Institute on the Prevention of Handicaps to develop a system of evaluating programs in place. Work on the design got underway prior to the end of the fiscal year.

The addition of 34 spaces to this program during the year brought provincial capacity to 284 spaces.

Activity Centres and Sheltered Workshops provide adult day programs for individuals who are mentally retarded.

Activity centres are designed for individuals with limited motor and sensory development. Programming stresses basic living skills, socialization and recreation. The goal is to develop sufficient social competence to improve the individual's ability to function in a community setting.

Sheltered workshops provide specialized employment opportunities for adult clients who have fair motor development or minimal sensory limitations. Training and production are the components of this program. People can develop work and social skills until they are able to either reach their potential level of independence or obtain

competitive employment. A portion of the profit gained is returned to the clients.

During 1983-84, a total of 1,557 spaces in 34 sheltered workshops and activity centres in 24 communities received department funding. Sheltered workshops are cost-shared with the federal government through the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement. Activity centres are cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

New sheltered workshops were completed in Nipawin and Moosomin during the year. The community of Waldheim received funding in support of rebuilding a workshop for persons with handicaps, in conjunction with the local nursing home. The Weyburn workshop received funding to facilitate expansion of its facility.

The Cosmopolitan Activity Centre in Saskatoon received the first installment of funding which will continue over a three year period so that it can be relocated.

Residential Services for Disabled Children and Adults

The primary objective of residential services is to develop a broad spectrum of options for mentally retarded adults to live in the least restrictive environment possible.

A variety of community residential programs exists, including group homes, training homes, approved homes and supportive living programs.

Group homes are operated by community boards and provide 24-hour supervision. The department licenses group homes.

During the year under review, 310 mentally retarded adults lived in 45

group homes located throughout the province.

Twenty-four adults lived in three Moose Jaw training homes, which also provide 24-hour supervision. In these homes, program staff provide life skills training to prepare residents for living within the community, as part of the overall process of deinstitutionalization.

Approved homes are private and provide the degree of care appropriate to individual client's needs. One hundred eighty-two projects accommodated 404 persons during the year.

The Supportive Living Program provides the necessary support services to enable mildly or moderately mentally retarded persons to reside in their own apartments. This program was expanded to 13 projects serving 96 persons.

The department also supported six group homes in Saskatchewan for physically disabled persons. Fifty adults were served.

Children with mental disabilities are also accommodated in group home situations. Forty children were served in six homes during 1983-84.

Children were also placed in foster homes. Foster and group homes are a support service provided to families unable to maintain children in the parental home, or to facilitate educational placements outside a child's home community.

During the year, five new group homes were opened in Meadow Lake, Saskatoon (2), Kindersley and Regina.

Respite Services

The department funds a holiday relief program for approved home operators, thereby facilitating the availability of relief staff.

Rehabilitation Services

Institutional Services

Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw provides services to approximately 730 mentally retarded persons who were in need of continuing supervisory and/or medical and nursing care.

Accomplishments

The quality of care to residents improved. Individual program plans were implemented for each resident, resulting in more personalized service, regardless of the severity of disability. Standards of service emphasizing quality of life were developed, and greater attention was focused in the area of human rights and civil liberties, within the context of the new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The re-organization of work units and services, and the redefinition of job roles, along with administrative changes and inservice education for management and staff, resulted in improved care and increased productivity and effectiveness.

A team approach to resident care was instituted and a re-organization plan implemented, integrating nursing and program sections into one area.

Identification of low priority or redundant positions, re-assignment of personnel and other efficiencies of service resulted in savings to the department of almost one million dollars. Efficiencies can now be effectively measured against performance and productivity standards that were established in 1983-84.

Upgrading of resident living conditions continued in a move towards improving quality of life and comfort. Renovation of resident units proceeded according to accreditation standards, health and fire safety standards, and accessibility standards.

North Park Centre in Saskatoon provides resident care and comprehensive service to approximately 170 mentally retarded adults requiring Level 2, 3 or 4 care. Most of the residents have

histories of long-term institutional care and could not be accommodated in homes or the community.

Accomplishments

The implementation of staff training and development programs, enhanced the quality of program and service delivery to residents.

Resident training programs continued to improve the functional skills of many residents in preparation for their integration into the community. For those unable to integrate, these programs raised the level of functioning in the most home-like living environment an institutional setting would allow.

Small Hospital Program

As of March 31, 1984, a total of 25 children and 18 adults were involved in the Small Hospital Program at 21 hospitals. This program was funded by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan and jointly administered by the Departments of Health and Social Services. Persons involved in the program require 24-hour skilled nursing care under medical direction, and usually had guardians or parents within the area willing to maintain a family relationship.



Child and Family Services

The department is responsible for child protection, single parent services, adoption, foster care and day care services.

Child Protection Services

The department investigates all reports of child neglect and abuse, and takes the necessary steps to ensure the safety of children.

A child in immediate jeopardy may be removed from the home to a place of safety. If a child is removed from parental care, an application must be made for a court hearing. At the completion of the hearing, the court may dismiss the application; order that the child remain with or be returned to the parent(s) under supervision of the department; order that the child be temporarily committed to the care of the Minister of Social Services for a period not to exceed 12 months; or order that the child be permanently committed to the care of the Minister.

Successful intervention in child protection begins with identification of families where neglect or abuse may be occurring.

All reports of children in need of protection are recorded centrally in the Child Protection Registry. In the 1983 calendar year, 2,656 cases were opened for investigation. Of these, 855 were considered to be cases of neglect and abuse. The remainder did not require service, were referred elsewhere for services, or were cases of parent/child conflict or behaviour management problems where children were determined to be in need of protection. Some of the children from these families came into the care of the Minister. Some were able, with counselling and support services, to remain with their families.

The department is also involved in voluntary child placement. There is provision for contractual agreements between the Minister of Social Services and parents for temporary

care and custody of children. These temporary agreements are used in circumstances where a child's special needs are such that the parent(s) cannot provide immediate care. The child is temporarily placed in an approved foster home and parents are assisted in resolving the difficulties which made the placement necessary. Parents are expected to contribute to the financial cost of caring for the child.

New to the child protection program are family support services that enable the parent to care for the child at home and thus prevent the child

Saskatchewan

Children in Care 1983-84

March 31, 1983	2,727
Supervision Orders (no longer included)	- 247
April 1983	2,480
Admissions	2,159
Total	4,639
Discharged (includes transfers between regions)	1,858
Adjustment (due to retroactive data processing)	- 507
March 31, 1984	2,274

Children in Care by Authority of The Family Services Act March 31, 1984

Custody (disposition not yet decided)	505
Sections 8 and 9	237
Temporary Ward	311
Permanent Ward and Section 44	1,184
Out of Province Ward	37
Total	2,274

Section 8 — voluntary agreement for care (with parents)

Section 9 — agreement for care and supervision of sixteen or seventeen year olds

Section 44 — continuance of care to persons eighteen to twenty-one years and previously in the minister's care, where that care is necessary for education.

Out of Province Wards include children in care who have moved to Saskatchewan.

Residential Location of Children in Care, March 31, 1984

Foster Homes	1,480
Group/Receiving Homes	120
Institutions and Special Resources	136
Adoption Homes	182
Other (includes own home, free homes, other arrangements)	356
Total	2,274

Child and Family Services

from coming into the care of the Minister. During 1983-84, funding for these services was allocated to the districts on the basis of child population.

Services that may be purchased include homemaking, parent aide services, parent education or life skills training, emergency babysitting, recreational fees, assessment, counselling or therapy, and transportation required for such services. The department has accepted the development of parent aide services as the key family support program in this area. By the end of the year, parent aide services were either available or ready to be implemented in all areas of Saskatchewan.

Foster Home Program

The department provides a substitute family environment for children who are temporarily placed in the care of the Minister, or who are permanent wards.

Foster homes are the primary means of caring for children who can function in a family environment. Foster parents are responsible for the day-to-day care of children, while the Minister remains the legal guardian and retains financial responsibility and authority over any long-term planning for them.

The role of foster parents in the lives of children in care is essential and considerable, and is highly valued by the department. Foster parents are regarded as colleagues of the department in providing a stable family situation for these children.

Foster parents are often asked to provide family care to children with physical or mental handicaps, teenagers, family groups, delinquent or difficult youths and emotionally disturbed children. To help meet the needs in these special situations, the department provides assessment services, short- and long-term care, counselling and supportive services.

At the end of March 31, 1984, 2,274 children were in the care of the

department. Of these, 1,542 were in foster homes and receiving homes.

The aim of the program is to return these children to their natural families whenever possible or, alternatively, to place them in adoption homes. However, a significant number of children remain in foster care until they become independent.

Recruitment and maintenance of foster homes continues to be a priority of the department, but the number of foster homes in Saskatchewan continues to decline. At March 31, 1984, the department had 941 approved foster homes compared with 973 a year earlier.

Single Parent Services

The department provides information, referral, counselling and other pre- and post-natal support services to single parents. Assistance is also given to mothers seeking to place their children for adoption. Most frequently, only the mother is involved in such a decision but there is a continuing trend towards active involvement by fathers in planning for their children. The mother's parents may also be involved.

For those mothers who decide to relinquish their children, social workers complete the required documentation, and if necessary, take the matter to court.

The number of infants adopted decreased from 176 in 1982-83 to 155 in 1983-84. This illustrates a trend that began several years ago. It is estimated that in excess of 90 per cent of single mothers choose to keep their infants.

During 1983-84, two pilot projects which were established in Saskatoon and Regina in 1981 were expanded to become a program. The Teen Parent program now covers most areas of the province. Related services consist of weekly visits to teach specific parenting skills and infant stimulation techniques. Intensive counselling on education,

employment and family relationships is also provided.

Part of this expansion included a new pilot project involving the Family Service agencies in Saskatoon, Regina and Moose Jaw. The project began at year's end and entails the operation of a volunteer support program operating in partnership with the department. The objectives of the program are:

- to promote normal growth and development in infants who may be at risk;
- to increase parenting skills and the knowledge and understanding of young mothers in areas of child care and development;
- to assist in maintaining the young family unit and prevent children from coming into the eventual care of the Minister; and
- to quickly identify the young mother who requires increased services or whose infant requires protection before a crisis situation emerges.

Child and Family Services

Adoption Program

Adoption is a major responsibility of the department and is the preferred plan for children under the age of twelve whose ties to natural parents are severed and who have come into the Minister's care. The purpose of the program is to place each child in an adoption home best suited to the child's individual needs.

The department is responsible for the recruitment, screening, and selection of adoptive families. In all cases, adoption applicants are assessed for placement by an adoption homestudy involving a series of interviews and meetings designed to assess the applicants and prepare them for the role of parenting an adopted child.

The department is also responsible for the provision of support services to adoptive families after placement.

In the 1983-84 fiscal year, a total of 226 children were placed for adoption.

There are three types of adoption:

Adoption of healthy, Caucasian infants

During 1983-84, the department conducted 207 homestudies for placement of Caucasian infants. The waiting list for the adoption of Caucasian infants is long; there were 585 applicants on the waiting list at year-end.

Adoption of children with special needs

Children with special needs related to factors such as age, handicaps, sibling groups or racial origin are placed for adoption through the REACH Program.

During 1983-84, 98 placements occurred, and 37 homestudies were conducted. Because of an oversupply of homes for some REACH children, a waiting list was established in 1983-84, and by year-end, there were 190 homes on this list.

Private and step-parent adoptions

Adoption placements may be made by natural parents of children. The department facilitates these adoptions by conducting homestudies, presenting case histories to the courts, and preparing other documentation that is required for an adoption order to be granted.

The department also facilitates step-parent adoptions by assisting the parents in the preparation and submission of materials for court purposes. The department can also provide a history of the case for the court.

The department facilitates the adoption of children from another country, as well. It conducts homestudies, and provides liaison with the child's country via a federal government agency.

During 1983-84, 85 private adoptions were finalized and 169 cases were active at year end. Another 376 step-parent adoptions were finalized while active cases at year-end totalled 227. Two international placements occurred during the year, and two families remained awaiting placement of children from other countries.

Children Placed for Adoption by Age Group

0 - 6 months	155
6 months - 5 years	53
6 - 12 years	18
Total	226

Post Adoption Intermediary Service

In 1982, the department initiated a service to provide search and reunion services to adult adoptees and former wards with members of their birth family. These services are offered upon request of the adult adoptee or former ward, with a reunion occurring only upon consent of the party being sought. Requests from members of the birth family are acted upon only if there is a corresponding request from the adult adoptee or former ward.

Adult parties to adoption or wardship are provided with non-identifying information about their background on request.

Saskatchewan

Child and Family Services

Private and step-parent adoptions

Requests Registered in 1983/84

Non-identifying Information Only:	203
Search and Reunion	
— adult adoptees	167
— adult former wards	25
— birth parents	63
— birth family (other)	13
— adoptive parents	13
— other (e.g. for estate purposes)	5

Cases Completed in 1983/84

— reunions effected	59
— search successful but birth parent refused contact	19
— request withdrawn	28
— independent search successful	5
— birth parent deceased	2
— insufficient information to conduct a search	6

Youth Services

The department provides services to youth and administers provincial responsibilities respecting juvenile delinquency. Young persons between seven and 15 years of age may be charged under the federal *Juvenile Delinquents Act* for violating laws or for other behaviour.

The federal government passed *The Young Offenders Act* to replace the *Juvenile Delinquents Act* during 1982. The department has been reviewing this legislation and its dramatic affect on youth services in Saskatchewan. It is expected that *The Young Offenders Act* will actually be brought into effect in April of 1984.

The department provides opportunities for young offenders to become positive contributors to society while holding them accountable for behaviour. These objectives are addressed through a range of community and residential programs.

If not charged by police, a young offender may be referred to counselling or diversion programs operated by non-governmental organizations in Moose Jaw, Prince

Albert and Saskatoon. Alternative programs developed on an individual case basis exist in northern Saskatchewan.

Police may decide to refer a youth for protection, in which case the department gets involved through its child and family services programs.

The department provides detention services, conducts predisposition investigations to assist the courts in making decisions and is involved in probation and supervision following court dispositions. The John Howard Society organizations are also involved in providing some community services.

The department operates four child care residential centres including the Roy Wilson Centre in Sedley for female adolescents; the Saskatchewan Boys' Centre in Regina; and Dales House in Regina and Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon, both of which provide stabilization and assessment services for young persons.

The department may refer youth to non-governmental organizations, which include the Ranch Ehrlo Society, a private treatment agency with facilities in Pilot Butte and Regina, or the Bosco Home Society

in Regina.

Placements in either the social services institutions or in NGO agencies are monitored and coordinated centrally.

The department may also refer difficult youth or young offenders to family-style group homes, receiving homes, staffed group homes or non-governmental child care centres. These resources are used for young persons who require less formal supervision. Placements are coordinated at the regional level.

Day Care

The department assists parents and parent boards to establish local day care services.

Day care centres provide care to children between 18 months and 12 years. As of the end of the fiscal year 1983-84, there were 91 day care centres operating in the province, with a total capacity of 3,450 spaces. This capacity can accommodate an average of 3,850 children every month since some children attend day care on a part-time basis.

The department also monitors and approves family day care homes run by private individuals in their own residences. Three hundred sixty-one such homes accommodated over 1,600 children during the year under review.

Access to day care services is facilitated in a number of ways. The department offers financial assistance in the form of start-up grants for day care centres and family day care homes, annual equipment grants, and special supervision and equipment grants for centres providing care to children with special needs.

The department also provides support to many parents of children in day care. An income-tested subsidy of up to \$235 per month per child was available to assist parents who met eligibility requirements.

Consultation and support services to day care providers and parents are provided, as well.

Senior Citizens

Seniors may access any of the department's services and programs the same as other citizens. However, during the 1983-84 fiscal year, changes within the department reflected the government's recognition of the special needs of seniors.

In addition to these changes, the Ministerial advisory body, the Senior Citizens Provincial Council, was restructured and its role clarified.

Seniors' Bureau

A Seniors' Bureau was established within the department as the focal point within government for all seniors to access information and referral respecting programs and services.

The Bureau helps to coordinate programs and services through its involvement on an inter-departmental committee which includes representation from a large number of government departments and agencies. It advises other departments on program and service issues as they affect seniors, and on the concerns and needs of seniors generally.

The Bureau also consults with seniors' organizations.

Funding Programs

The department provides capital and operating funds to non-profit community organizations for the development of programs and facilities which involve seniors in recreational, educational and cultural activities. In 1983-84, the department funded over 400 seniors activity centres operated by local boards.

The department also provided funding to nineteen small local, specialized transportation projects for seniors.

Accomplishments

During 1983-84, the department:

- organized the first seniors' forum held in the province;
- planned and organized the first seniors' health fair in Saskatchewan in co-operation with the Saskatchewan Seniors Association;
- worked with the University of Regina's extension department to set up a senior fitness leadership training program;
- assisted the Colleges of Continuing Medical Education and Nursing in professional, geriatric medicine and nursing training programs; and,
- provided consultation and developmental work to organizations offering services and programs for seniors, such as the Saskatchewan Alzheimers and Related Diseases Association, which was founded during the year.



Income Security

In 1983-84, a new Income Security Division was created as a result of re-organization within the department, combining the income and employment support programs of the department into a complementary program. This combination enhances income security provisions with appropriate training and job options for clients.

The Saskatchewan Assistance Plan

This is the province's basic income support program and may be best known as the "welfare program".

Welfare is

cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan. The department provided funds via the Plan to meet the cost of food, shelter, utilities, clothing and supplementary health services for individuals and families who for various reasons do not have enough money to meet basic needs.

The actual application for and provision of benefits, and related information respecting client rights and responsibilities, is provided through the regional services structure of the department and by two local municipal offices in the cities of Moose Jaw and Prince Albert.

Field audit services were enhanced during the year.

Accomplishments

The major initiative undertaken and announced in 1983-84 was welfare reform that will be implemented in the following fiscal year. The objectives are:

- to provide more productive alternatives to welfare in the form of training and job opportunities;
- to provide equity in program benefits which is related more to the degree of client need rather than general uniformity; and,
- to make the program administratively more efficient and effective.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Financial Cases by Employment Status March 1984

Employment Status	Cases March '84	Percentage of Total	Cases March '83
Employed	4,394	14.0	4,060
Unemployed			
Fully Employable	9,703	30.9	7,525
Partially Employable	5,028	16.0	5,857
Undergoing Training	1,120	3.6	1,028
Unemployable (includes persons who are temporarily or permanently unemployable)	11,201	35.6	10,955
Total	31,446	100.0	29,425

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Expenditures by Source 1983-84

		Percentage of Total
Municipal Governments	\$ 1,795,079	1
Federal Government	85,713,257	49
Provincial Government	87,354,576	50
Total	\$174,862,912	100

Sample Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Payment March 1984

Single parent (temporarily unemployable) with two children, renting a house	
Basic Allowance (for food, clothing and personal needs)	\$412.00
— one adult (\$148)	
— two children (2 x \$132)	
Household Allowance	60.00
Rent (provincial average)	301.00
Utilities (electricity, telephone, and heat)	55.00
Total budget need	\$828.00
Less income:	
Family Allowance (2 x \$29.95)	59.90
Monthly entitlement	\$768.10
Less:	
Family Income Plan payment (2 x \$91)	182.00
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan payment	\$586.10

Saskatchewan

With this reform, the Saskatchewan welfare system will be appropriately equipped to face present circumstances, and the challenges of the eighties and beyond. For those who are able to work, a more flexible system can offer productive opportunities and allow more clients to regain self-reliance. For those who cannot become totally independent of welfare, for reasons of age, health or family responsibilities, there will be strengthened support through all three income security programs.

The division's administrative efficiency and effectiveness will be improved through automation. A multi-phase automation project began during the year under review.

Job Creation

In response to provincial employment concerns, the Government of Saskatchewan signed an agreement during 1982 to match \$7.5 million in federal funding and to jointly operate a \$15 million short-term job creation program called the Canada/Saskatchewan Job Creation Program. The province allocated an additional \$2.5 million to establish the Saskatchewan JOBS Program, targeted to the same population with slightly broader criteria to facilitate the participation of business employment project sponsors.

Both job creation programs were designed to provide immediate and productive employment for longer-term unemployed Saskatchewan workers facing hardship. This was accomplished by providing to employers minimum wages for employees hired into new jobs plus the employer portion of mandatory benefits. In certain circumstances wages for supervisory staff and up to \$50 per week per worker for essential overhead were provided. Employers from the following broad

Sample Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Payment March 1984

Married couple (part-time employed) with three children, renting a house	
Basic Allowance (for food, clothing and personal needs)	\$692.00
— one adult (\$148)	
— two children (3 x \$132)	
Household Allowance	60.00
Rent (provincial average)	288.00
Utilities (electricity, telephone, and heat)	55.00
Total budget need	\$1,095.00
Less income:	
Family Allowance (3 x \$29.95)	89.85
Employment Income = \$400.00	
Exemption (25% of need) = \$273.75	
Income deducted	126.25
Monthly entitlement	\$878.90
Less:	
Family Income Plan payment (3 x \$91)	273.00
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan payment	\$605.90

categories were encouraged to initiate job creation projects:

- municipalities, school boards and other local government organizations;
- industries, businesses and co-operatives; and,
- non-profit organizations, unions and churches.

Employees had to be unemployed and entitled to work in Canada, and have exhausted all entitlement to unemployment insurance benefits or be in receipt of social assistance.

A total of 2,412 jobs were created under the Canada/Saskatchewan Job Creation Program, at a total cost of \$14,908,093. The remaining \$91,907 was used for extensions to projects.

Distribution of the projects was 23% from the business sector, 29% from local government and 48% from non-profit organizations.

The Saskatchewan JOBS Program created 313 jobs at a total cost of \$1,744,819. Sixty-three percent of the projects were in the business sector reflecting the JOBS Program's more expanded criteria for business while 18 per cent were with local

governments and 19 per cent with non-profit corporations.

Both programs exceeded their combined goal of creating 2,400 jobs and met their objectives of providing at least 20 to 26 weeks of employment.

In addition, 55 per cent of the project sponsors topped up at least some of their employees' wages. The average wage paid by project employers for both programs was \$5.16. The average wage paid under the Saskatchewan JOBS program was slightly higher at \$5.28. This was in all likelihood due to the higher proportion of businesses involved in the JOBS program.

Saskatchewan

Income Security

Employment Support

The Employment Support Program provides funding to a number of agencies offering a range of services for mentally and physically disabled and socially disadvantaged Saskatchewan Assistance Plan recipients. These services include

counselling and placement services, subsidized industry positions, and transitional employment placements.

A total of 22 projects were funded under the Employment Support Program during 1983-84. These included several placement agencies; nine industry positions offering long-term employment to

individuals unable to cope in the regular job market place; and six transitional employment organizations which enable individuals to develop job skills and work histories, thereby enabling them to proceed into the regular work place.

Placement Projects

Client services placements	1,900
Subsidized employment placements	325
Non-subsidized employment placements	550

Transitional Employment

Funded positions	31
Individuals employed	72
Return to Saskatchewan Assistance Plan	18
Average cost per individual	\$ 7,710
Average cost per position	\$17,900

Subsidized Industry

Funded positions	48
Individuals employed	87
Return to S.A.P.	25
Average cost per individual	\$ 5,490
Average cost per position	\$ 9,950

Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons

The department administers a federal-provincial agreement which provides for the equal sharing of approved expenditures made on behalf of persons who are mentally or physically disabled. Under this agreement, the province undertakes to provide a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program which includes assessment, counselling, vocational training and employment placement for eligible persons.

Program co-ordination, consultation and staff development for rehabilitation agencies and vocational counsellors is also a responsibility of the department. The Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Program involves a number of departments and agencies including the Departments

of Social Services, Advanced Education and Manpower, Education and Health; the Saskatchewan Alcoholism Commission; and 16 community coordinating and referral agencies with specific target groups and expertise in determining and meeting their respective client needs.

Categories of Disability Sponsored for Assessment and Training 1983-84

Blindness and limited sight	43
Deafness and hearing impaired	65
Other physical disorders	210
Addiction of alcohol and drugs	44
Mental retardation	177
Emotional disorder	92

Vocational counsellors also reported the placement of 1,225 persons in paid employment during the year.

Income Security

The Family Income Plan

This program provides monthly supplements to low-income families with children under 18 years of age. Eligibility is based on annual family income and assets, and is reassessed every three months. During March of 1984 supplements were provided to 7,493 low-income families.

Saskatchewan Income Plan

This program provides monthly supplementary payments to persons sixty-five years of age and over. Benefits depend upon the amount of the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement they receive. Eligibility is automatically assessed when a senior applies for the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and no application is needed to qualify for benefits under the Saskatchewan Income Plan. Benefits were provided to 20,914 low-income seniors during March of 1984.

Internal Support Services

Federal/Provincial Arrangements

The Federal/Provincial Arrangements Branch is responsible for the policy and claiming requirements under the Canada Assistance Plan and the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement, reflecting the federal/provincial sharing of related responsibilities.

In January, 1983, the branch assumed the additional responsibility of chargebacks to the Department of Indian Affairs for treaty children-in-care. The branch also assumed responsibility for some chargebacks to the federal government for emergency assistance provided to treaty Indians.

Other responsibilities include liaison with Health and Welfare Canada and provincial social services departments; administering provincial responsibilities under the Excise Tax Act; preparing briefing materials and correspondence on federal/provincial and inter-provincial issues; serving on a

standing federal/provincial working group; and providing liaison with other government departments on social issues which involve the federal government.

Most programs and services provided by Saskatchewan Social Services for the period 1983-84 were cost shareable. Overall, for departmental programs which were shareable under the Canada Assistance Plan, federal revenue represented 43 per cent of total expenditures. For programs shareable under the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement, federal revenue represented approximately 45 per cent of total expenditures.

The branch also maintains a list of all non-governmental agencies affected by either of the federal/provincial cost-sharing agreements, along with statistical information.

Strategic Planning and Communication

The Strategic Planning and Communication Branch provides the overall strategic planning and policy-making support for the department, as well as providing project co-ordination and other developmental supports for the Deputy Minister and the Minister. Long-term planning, short-term issues management, policy review and development, and program design and evaluation are some of the responsibilities of the Strategic Planning and Communication Branch, and are coordinated in consultation with regional managers and other levels of the department. The branch is also responsible for the formulation of the department's communication policy and strategy.

During the year, the branch was involved in the planning of a number of activities including the review of *The Family Services Act*, a strategy for independent living, relations with non-governmental organizations, and productivity improvement within the department.

Internal Support Services

The branch conducted a review of internal and external communication practices and implemented approved recommendations associated with publications visual standards, public relations and internal communication.

Other projects and activities included the co-ordination of the review of the Canadian Charter of Rights, a submission to the Federal Task Force on Pornography and Prostitution, and the Canadian Council on Social Development volunteerism review. Additional support was provided in the area of productivity improvement, welfare reform, a task force on the disabled, a feasibility study on deinstitutionalization, and numerous other activities.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Branch supports the delivery of the department's programs and services to Saskatchewan people by means of co-ordinating managing and developing the human resources of the department.

As part of this function, the branch provides personnel administration support in the form of personnel selection and recruitment, classification, contract interpretation, employee benefits and labour relations. The branch also provides advice and direction to all divisions of the department on such matters as manpower planning, affirmative action, performance appraisal and employee counselling.

In co-operation with the Public Service Commission, the branch administers a comprehensive educational leave program, tuition rebate, and in-service training programs designed to provide developmental opportunities which are in the interests of both the department and employees.

Systems Development

The Systems Development Branch coordinates the development of all major information systems in the department. These systems support the work of program staff and meet the needs of management for statistical information that aids planning and decision-making.

This branch allows the department to capture essential information in a consistent and consolidated fashion respecting all programs and clients of the department.

The Systems Development Branch is directly involved, for example, in automating administration of the Saskatchewan welfare system.

Administrative Services

The Administrative Services Branch is responsible for budget management, records and forms management, and assets management. The Comptroller services are also provided to the department from within this area.

The branch provides financial management in such areas as preparation of budget estimates, financial control and accounting systems. It provides major support services such as purchasing, as well as coordination and preparation of legislation. It provides a centralized structure through which Saskatchewan Assistance Plan and child care payments are made. It is also involved with the delivery and control of benefits paid under the Family Income Plan and supplements to seniors under the Saskatchewan Income Plan.

Saskatchewan

Fiscal Addendum

Saskatchewan Social Services Gross Expenditures 1983-84

Program Services

Administration

Support Services	\$ 4,583,259	
Program Administration	6,331,946	\$10,915,205

Regional Operations		17,593,671
Family and Community Services		2,094,206
Child Care Institutions		4,196,520
Rehabilitation Services (Core Services)		1,613,327
Residences for the Mentally Handicapped		
North Park Centre	\$ 4,493,773	
Valley View Centre	18,481,477	22,975,250

Grants to Local Authorities and Other Third Parties

Grants to Day Care Centres and Family Day Care Homes	734,377
Grants for Community Services	5,702,853
Grants and Allowances for Services to the Handicapped	6,178,998
Payments to Local Social Services Units	1,411,999
Grants for Senior Citizens	1,088,388
Canada/Saskatchewan Job Creation and Saskatchewan "JOBS" Programs (1983-84)	6,262,099

Payments to or on Behalf of Individuals

Allowances for Day Care	8,580,983
Child Care	13,562,562
Grants for Employment Support Program	2,014,040

Income Security

Public Assistance

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan	\$174,859,487	
Categorical Allowances	3,425	174,862,912

Family Income Plan	17,523,055
Saskatchewan Income Plan — Senior Citizens' Benefits	5,048,612

Total	\$302,359,057
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Saskatchewan